

Goodwin Wins Praise On Guevara Meeting

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Richard Goodwin of the White House told a group of Senators yesterday about his conversation with Cuba's Ernesto Guevara—and got a pat on the back for the way he handled himself with the Cuban.

Sen. Wayne Morse (D-Ore.) told newsmen about the 90-minute, closed-door session President Kennedy's special assistant for Latin American affairs had with members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Morse emphasized that the discussion was in no sense an investigation.

"It was just a report from a competent expert in the Latin American field on events at the Punta del Este conference and other happenings in Latin America," Morse said. "We have absolute confidence the Goodwin-Guevara meeting was exactly as Mr. Goodwin described it in the press, and there was absolutely nothing improper about it."

As to why Adolfo Mugica, then Foreign Minister of Argentina, persisted in attributing significance to the Goodwin-Guevara conversation, Morse told newsmen:

"Neither the Committee nor Mr. Goodwin has any idea

whatever why the Argentine Foreign Minister, who has just resigned, made the statements he did."

Mugica resigned after he had reported that Guevara talked three hours with Goodwin about improving United States-Cuban relations.

Goodwin told newsmen at the time of Mugica's original comments that he and Guevara did not confer on official matters of any nature and that the meeting was an accidental one at a cocktail party.

Goodwin said the meeting lasted 30 or 35 minutes, at most, including the time required for translations.

The Senator said only a short time was spent in discussing the Goodwin-Guevara meeting, which took place at Montevideo, Uruguay, at the home of a Brazilian diplomat after the Punta del Este conference.